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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/401,293	09/23/1999	MASAHIRO HAYAMA	Q55778	4480

7590 10/12/2004

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EXAMINER

ANDERSON, MATTHEW D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2186

DATE MAILED: 10/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No. 09/401,293	Applicant(s) HAYAMA, MASAHIRO
	Examiner Matthew D. Anderson	Art Unit 2186
--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --		
<p>THE REPLY FILED 04 October 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may <u>only</u> be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.</p>		
<u>PERIOD FOR REPLY</u> [check either a) or b)]		
<p>a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The period for reply expires <u>3</u> months from the mailing date of the final rejection.</p> <p>b) <input type="checkbox"/> The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.</p> <p>ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).</p>		
<p>Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).</p>		
<p>1. <input type="checkbox"/> A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below); (b) <input type="checkbox"/> they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below); (c) <input type="checkbox"/> they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or (d) <input type="checkbox"/> they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims. <p>NOTE: _____. </p>		
<p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____. </p> <p>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s). </p> <p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The a)<input type="checkbox"/> affidavit, b)<input type="checkbox"/> exhibit, or c)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: <u>(see attached...)</u>. </p> <p>6. <input type="checkbox"/> The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection. </p> <p>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a)<input type="checkbox"/> will not be entered or b)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended. </p>		
<p>The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:</p> <p>Claim(s) allowed: _____. </p> <p>Claim(s) objected to: _____. </p> <p>Claim(s) rejected: <u>30-39</u>. </p> <p>Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____. </p>		
<p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing correction filed on _____ is a)<input type="checkbox"/> approved or b)<input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner. </p> <p>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s)(PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____. </p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. </p>		

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 10/4/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. The Applicant alleges at the bottom of page 3 of his response that Komatsu does not disclose performing determination of completion of a plurality of stages of rewriting processing, let alone recording results of the determination of completion of each stage into the flag areas, as recited in Applicant's independent claims 30, 32, 33, 35 and 37-39. Immediately prior to that argument, Applicant briefly discusses some of the flags in the flash memory of Komatsu. The Examiner maintains that the setting of these flags could be considered the determination of the completion of each rewriting stage. The resetting of the start erasing flag and the erase flag in step S14 in figure 5 indicates the beginning of the erase stage and appears to read upon the claimed setting of the flag to denote the erasure of the flag area stage. The resetting of the end erasing flag indicating completion of the data erasure appears to read upon the claimed setting of the flag to denote the blank check of the data area stage. The resetting of the free block flag indicating that there is now data in the block appears to read upon the claimed setting of the flag to denote the completion of writing of data into the data area stage.
3. For these reasons, the rejections to claims 30-39 are maintained.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew D. Anderson whose telephone number is (571) 272-4177. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 2nd Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew M. Kim can be reached on (571) 272-4182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Matthew D. Anderson
Examiner
Art Unit 2186